

THE VALLEY

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Valley Community Presbyterian Church

OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPENING LIVES TO GOD

3100 Lilac Dr. N
Golden Valley, MN 55422



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Cover Photo: The Lenten season means that it is time for Fish Banks and collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Sheila talked about OGHS during Children's Time. (March 16)

Community News

• MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Holy Week in the Valley**
 - **Palm Sunday | Sunday, April 13 @ 9:30 AM**
 - Bring in your fish banks! We will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing donations.
 - **Maundy Thursday Worship | Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 PM**
 - **Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, April 19 @ 11:00 AM**
 - **Easter Sunday Worship | Sunday, April 20 @ 9:30 AM**
 - **Easter Monday | April 21 | Office Closed (Good Friday Observed)**
- **Fridays in the Valley (page 5)**
 - **Friday, April 11 @ 7 PM | The Bernstein Players**
- Upcoming Valley Choir Rehearsals in April:
 - **Wednesday, April 2 @ 7:00 PM**
 - **Wednesday, April 16 @ 7:00 PM**
- Valley Handbell Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
- **Valley Indoor & Outdoor Spring Cleaning | Saturday, April 27 | 10 AM - 12 PM**
- Valley Brew Crew | Saturday, April 27 | 12 - 5 PM (page 10)
- Senior Sermon Sunday | Sunday, May 18 @ 9:30 AM (page 8)
- **Summer 2024 VBC | June 11-14 | 9 AM - 12 PM (page 8)**

• MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Indigenous Justice Taskforce (IJT) Updates (page 9)**
- Formula for Hope Luncheon (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery fundraiser)
 - **Wednesday, May 7 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**
- **Taste of the Burbs (PRISM fundraiser) | Thursday, May 9 (page 10)**
- *DRIVERS NEEDED* for Meals on Wheels (call the Valley Office if you can help)

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

APRIL 2025

Dear Valley,

If you haven't already heard it in my sermons these past few weeks, I have been wrestling with Lent this year. I have found myself at multiple points wanting to move away from the quiet introspection that normally comes with the Lenten season, wishing instead for the boisterous joy of Easter. There is a lot of gloom in the world already. Can't we just be happy?

I was feeling this way recently, so I decided to get out of the office and stretch my legs before evening meetings. I took a walk by the creek and thought of what that winding pathway might look like in just a few short weeks. Flowers would begin to creep out and tress would begin to bud; life would soon emerge! A hymn got into my head that I couldn't seem to shake either: *In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree / in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! / In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be / unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

We walk through Lent with quiet and restraint because it reminds us of just how joyful Easter really is. The seasons of dormancy in our lives juxtapose the upwelling of emotion



Rev. Jim Cochrane

that comes with seasons that give life. God alone is able to see that wider, 30,000-foot view. It is incumbent on us to trust that it will eventually make its way out.

God alone can see the full arc of our lives and the joyful morning following the evening of despair, but we can see flashes of that life-giving joy at times. Here at Valley, we saw those lovely shimmers through events like the **Y.E.S. Tea** that raised over \$5,100 for future scholars of the church and our annual **Pack the Pews** campaign that delivered thousands of pounds of food and thousands of dollars in financial support to PRISM.

The hymn I mentioned, *In the Bulb There is a Flower*, ends with: *In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity / in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity / in our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory / unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.* I hope you will join us here at Valley to celebrate the ultimate joy – that the love of God can conquer even the ultimate finality of death – this year for Holy Week. From the “Hosanna’s” of Palm Sunday to the darkness of Maundy Thursday to the joy of Easter morning, we live grateful that God walks with us all in every season of our lives.

In Christ,




Easter Worship
CHRIST IS RISEN!
 SUNDAY, APRIL 20 | 9:30 AM
 Rev. Jim Cochrane, Preaching

Special Music:
 Valley Choir
 Jane Nienaber, organ
 Rachel Williams, piano

 Valley Community

**Join us for
 worship!**

Sundays
 at 9:30 AM
 or anytime on our
 YouTube Channel

We are worshipping in-person and via live-stream.

WORSHIP SERVICE OVERVIEW

- Prelude begins at 9:25 AM | Worship at 9:30 AM, followed by coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall.
- The Family Room located in the Sunshine Room is always available with a TV to watch the service for parents whose little ones need a break.
- Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins are available in the Narthex.
- The Sunshine Room provides **Sunday School for children age 3-3rd grade** and childcare for all ages during Adult Education classes.

Valley Connects - March 2025

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



YOUTH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TEA



LENT & HOLY WEEK 2025 SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 30	9:30 AM	4th Sunday in Lent Worship Sheila Sheldon preaching
Wed, April 2	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, April 6	9:30 AM	5th Sunday in Lent Worship
Wed, April 9	6:00 PM	Wednesdays in Lent Dinner & Discussion
Sunday, April 13	9:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
Thurs, April 17	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service with communion
Sunday, April 20	9:30 AM	Easter Sunday Worship



Fridays in the Valley Presents:



The Bernstein Players

Friday, April 11, 2025 | 7:00 PM

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
BEACON INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLECTIVE



Valley Community



**- LOOKING AHEAD -
FRIDAYS IN THE VALLEY**

Only 3 concerts left in the 2024-25 season!

FRIDAY, May 9 | 7:00 pm
Slipjig

SUNDAY, June 8 | 7:00 pm
Dolce Winds

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Calling all Ringers!

RINGERS AND NON-RINGERS AGES 10 & UP ARE WELCOME! THE VALLEY RINGERS LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS HOW TO RING!

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Rehearsals held in the Sanctuary

Contact Janet Carlson if you have questions.



VCPC CHOIR

VALLEY IS EXCITED TO ENJOY OUR CHOIR TWO SUNDAYS EACH MONTH!

Rehearse: April 2 @ 7:15pm
Perform: Sunday, April 6

Rehearse: April 16 @ 7:00pm
Perform: Sunday, April 20
EASTER SUNDAY!

Rehearsals on Wed. evenings




»»» SPRINGING INTO ««« ACTION

AT VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Photo of Owámniyomni (St. Anthony Falls) from the Owámniyomni Okhódayapi website (<https://owamniyomni.org/>)

Who are you called to be in this season?

It should come as no surprise that Mission is a central part of life in the Valley. As a Matthew 25 congregation, we live into the call to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the least of these. The Lenten season is a perfect time to take stock of who we are in Jesus and recommit ourselves to spiritual and life practices that bring God’s love into our lives and the lives of our neighbors.

»»» HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO GET INVOLVED «««



The Valley Indigenous Justice Taskforce (IJT) invites you to join Barry Hand, Owámniyomni Okhódayapi program director, for a 60-minute guided site visit of Owámniyomni (St. Anthony Falls) and the Upper Lock on **Saturday, May 3 at 10:00 AM**. Learn about Dakota lifeways, the significance of the River, and the Mní Sóta Dakota Tribes’ vision for cultural and environmental restoration. Tour is appropriate for all ages! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, [CLICK HERE](#), or scan the QR code below to sign up online!



Group of Valley volunteers at Golden Valley PRIDE Festival. (June 2023)



Learn more and register for the Owámniyomni Interpretive Tour.



The festival will take place on **Saturday, June 7 from 12:00 - 6:00 pm**. GV PRIDE Festival is family-friendly with music, food vendors, bounce houses, inflatable obstacle courses, games, and MORE! Mark your calendars and come support this amazing event in our GV community.

Valley has been a proud sponsor of Golden Valley PRIDE Festival since its first year and this year will be no different. Sign up to volunteer for a shift at the VCPC booth! The Festival is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love for all.



Taste of the 'Burbs is PRISM's largest annual fundraiser, bringing the community together for an evening of great food and even greater impact. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, May 8 at 6:15 pm** at the Metropolitan Ballroom in St. Louis Park.

Proceeds from Taste of the 'Burbs directly support PRISM's vital programs, including the Marketplace Food Shelf, Housing Programs, and Shop for Change Thrift Store. Valley hopes to show up in force in support of our partners at PRISM.



The Formula for Hope luncheon welcomes passionate Nursery supporters for an inspiring afternoon of stories, impact, and time with friends. Please join us as we gather to celebrate more than 40 years of caring for children and strengthening families in our community.

A group of Valley members and friends attend each year! Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, May 7 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**. Call the Valley Office if you would like to attend!



In March 2025, a majority of presbyteries in the PC(USA) approved Amendment 24-A. The Amendment, approved by the General Assembly in 2024, adds 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' to categories protected from discrimination.

The Presbyterian Outlook does a great job of chronicling actions that are being taken at the presbytery and national level. You can read more here:

<https://pres-outlook.org/>

"THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, 'COME, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER; TAKE YOUR INHERITANCE, THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD. FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.'

"THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, 'LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND INVITE YOU IN, OR NEEDING CLOTHES AND CLOTHE YOU? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK OR IN PRISON AND GO TO VISIT YOU?'

"THE KING WILL REPLY, 'TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.'

-MATTHEW 25:34-40

TEAMS WATER FILTRATION TEST



The Valley Education Corner

FAITH FORMATION



INVITATION TO PLAY CURRICULUM

Sunday mornings in the Sunshine Room

Have you checked in with your Valley kid recently? The new Invitation to Play curriculum has us searching for things in bins of rice, watching what happens when we mix vinegar and baking soda and more. It has been hands-on and engaging fun!



Vacation Bible Camp (VBC)

Tuesday, June 10 - Friday, June 13; 9 AM - 12 PM

We cannot wait to have VBC again this June! Registration will open on April 1st for kids entering Kindergarten - 6th grade in the Fall of 2025. We are also looking for Valley grown-ups and youth (7th-12th grade) who would be interested in volunteering.



Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers needed for Sunday mornings and VBC!

All of these amazing opportunities for Valley kids cannot happen without help from lots of Valley grown-ups. Talk to or [email Mariah Messer](#) if you are interested!

YOUTH GROUP & TEAMS



YOUTH COOKIE SALE UPDATE

The youth were able to raise \$2,417.62 in ONE SALE DAY!

Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies and baskets and helped with the Youth Cookie Sale this year especially Katie Decker, Deb Poynter, and Valerie & Scott Robinson. That is \$275 more than last year's sale!



Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP TEA UPDATE

This was a record-breaking year!

This year's Tea featured 16 beautiful tables, attendees of all ages, a raffle featuring a Tea Party hosted by Carolyn Anderson, and delicious food and desserts. **Together we raised approx. \$5,000 for the Youth Education Scholarship Fund.** Thank you to all who helped make the year an incredible success!



Senior Sermon Sunday

Sunday, May 18th at 9:30am

Mark your calendars for a Sunday celebrating Valley graduates! They will share during worship and other Valley youth will also take part in the service that morning. If you have a grad in your life, please email Savannah no later than May 11th.

Indigenous Justice Task Force

Happy spring! This is a busy time for Valley's Indigenous Justice Task Force and our community partners. Please join us for some of the events listed below!



In April, Valley is collaborating with 6 congregations or organizations to organize a visit from author Sarah Augustine (Pueblo / Tewa descendant). Sarah is the Executive Director for the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#). She is author of the book *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* and co-author of *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting Climate Crisis*. Please see below for a few great opportunities to join us in learning from Sarah during her Minnesota visit:



- Friday, April 4 at 11:30 am – **Potluck and informal discussion** at Prospect Park United Methodist Church. Please register by emailing Peter Koenig at I-LABR@cabrinimn.org.
- Friday, April 4 at 7:00 pm – **Presentation about Indigenous solidarity** at United Theological Seminary (also streaming online). Free with registration [here](#).
- Saturday, April 5 from 10:00 am to 2:00pm – **Decolonization training** at Unity Church Unitarian. Lunch from Indigenous Food Lab costs \$15 for in-person attendees; free for virtual attendees. Registration required [here](#).
- Saturday, April 5 at 3:00 pm – **Book study** at Unity Church Unitarian for those who have read Sarah's book *The Land is Not Empty*. Free with no registration required.

Valley and our community partners are also offering a variety of engaging events this spring.

Please join us to learn more about the Twin Cities as an Indigenous landscape!

- April 19 from 10:00am to 1:00pm – The City of Golden Valley is hosting a **creek clean-up**, and Crystal Boyd will host an Indigenous resource table. Free with more info [here](#).
- April 26 at 11:00am – Hennepin History Museum is hosting a **Dakota speaker panel**. Free with registration required [here](#).
- May 3 at 10:00am – Valley is hosting a **tour of St. Anthony Falls** with Owámniyomni Okhódayapi. Free-will donations requested with required registration [here](#).

The Task Force is busy planning more educational events for 2025. Please check back next month to learn more!

AN UPDATE FROM PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC is happy to report that **we now have a mentor**. He has been incredibly helpful and was pleased with the progress we made on our own.

As mentioned in the February update, we've been working on answering the narrative questions for the MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile). We need to be specific yet concise, which is challenging. Thankfully, we have the mission study as a reference. It has been instrumental in providing direction for each question. This is important to note because as a congregation, we all collaborated - through listening sessions - on this document as the first step in finding Valley's next pastor.

We hope to finish these narrative questions by the end of the month. Then we will begin filling out the rest of the MDP.

As always, please keep the members of the PNC in your prayers as we continue the journey!

NEW!

Bible Study

2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM in the library.

Join Rev. Rebecca Tollefson for *Let Justice Roll Down*, a wonderful Bible Study focused on creation justice. Come to one or come to them all.

DATE: 4/10/25
5/8/25



EASTER EGG HUNT

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 19, 2025
@ 11:00 AM

Cookie decorating & refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt. All are welcome! Invite family, friends, and neighbors for this fun community event!

 Valley Community

SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OUTSIDE

South Lawn
Playground
Patio

INSIDE

Sanctuary
Community Rooms
Fellowship Hall Chairs



VALLEY BREW CREW! BREW CREW EVENT AT VALLEY

Saturday, April 26
12:00 - 5:00 PM

Valley Community
Presbyterian Church


COME CHECK OUT THE
BLUE RIBBON-WINNING
VALLEY BREW CREW!

 Valley Community



OWÁMNIYOMNI INTERPRETIVE TOUR

HOSTED BY

 wámmniyomni
khódayapi



EXPLORE THE DECOLONIZED HISTORY OF OWÁMNIYOMNI
(ST. ANTHONY FALLS)

LEARN ABOUT DAKOTA LIFEWAYS, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RIVER, AND THE DAKOTA-LED VISION FOR CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION.

MAY 3 @ 10 A.M.

MEET AT EAST SIDE ENTRY TO STONE ARCH BRIDGE
(101 10TH AVE S, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415)



12th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs

Date: Thursday, May 8th, 2025

Time: 6:15 PM

Location: The Metropolitan Club & Ballroom

Contact the Valley Office if you are interested in attending!

BIRTHDAYS

Larry Johnson
 Ben Fadell
 Jeanine Miakotina
 Colin Poynter
 Ray Anderson
 Marci Franz
 Mikum Kunkel
 Rob Morrow
 Jim Parks
 Larry Eklund
 Mary Schuette
 Tom McKeon
 Alexandria Slack
 Pat Daily
 Jaxon Hein-Smith
 Jim Saelens
 Iris Hagelin
 Jeff Lewis
 Devin Smith
 Emmett Soltau
 Becca Pitan
 Chelsie Larsen
 Christopher Bauer
 Andrew Gillett
 Leone Johnson
 Sam Sheldon
 Betty Thorne
 Rachel Williams
 Becky Grosshuesch
 Mike Pinter

Becky Brooking
 Betsy Nichols
 Mae Rudeen
 Dede Hanson
 Greg Van Heest
 Andres Freeberg
 Jeremy Lund
 Charlie Rudeen
 Camille Pinter
 Jennifer Downs
 Ben Sheldon
 Elsie Grosshuesch
 Brian Hole
 Missy Rudeen



Tuesday, April 1

1:00 Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner
 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 4

6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am Worship Service with communion
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 *Confirmation, TEAMS & Youth Group BREAK

Monday, April 7

11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ 50's Grill

Tuesday, April 8

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Wednesdays in Lent Dinner

Thursday, April 10

10:00 am Bible Study
 6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Friday, April 11

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 2:00 pm Confirmation Class
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Tuesday, April 15

11:30 am Valley Men's Luncheon
 1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 16

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 5:30 pm IJT Meeting
 6:30 pm PNC Meeting
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

6:00 pm Youth/TEAMS Dinner

Saturday, April 19

11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service
 NO Adult Ed, Confirmation, TEAMS & Youth

Monday, April 21

Office Closed (Good Friday Observed)

Tuesday, April 22

1:00 pm Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 24

10:00 am Meals on Wheels
 6:00 pm City of GV Listening Session
 6:30 pm PNC Meeting

Saturday, April 26

10:00 am Spring Grounds Cleaning
 12:00 pm Valley Brew Crew

Sunday, April 27

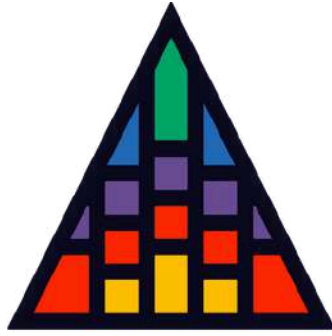
9:30 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Adult Ed
 2:00 pm Confirmation Class
 4:00 pm TEAMS & Youth Group

Monday, April 28

6:30 pm Session Meeting

Tuesday, April 29

1:00 Bible Fellowship
 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VCPC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

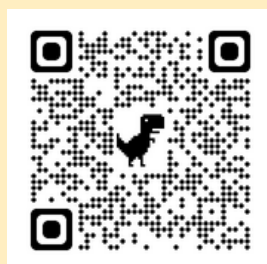
As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors.

VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.



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